HISTORY OF THE WALKER CEMETARY

The little cemetary close to State Road ~~151~~ 189 is approximately ten miles north and east of Heber City, Utah on the road to Kamas, Utah and near the Provo River. It was at a location almost directly south of the cemetary, between the highway and the Provo River -- a distance of about 500 feet -- that William Henry Walker brought his two wives (he being a polygamist) in 1875. His first wife was Lydia Ann Horn whom he had married in 1857. To them were born ten children. His second wife was Ada Louisa Phippen Hale Mahoney and they were married in 1870. Ada Louisa brought three children with her, Esther Hale and Jeremiah and Elmer Mahoney. She was divorced from her first husband, and her second husband died about five years after their marriage.

Mr. Walker built two logs homes for his two wives and their families. Mr. Walker and Ada Louisa had seven children, making a total of twenty children living there. However, one child from each family died and were buried in other cemetaries. In one week, during the diptheria epidemic in 1879, three of the children died. Murry Kimble, age four, and son of Ada Louisa, died on July 7th; Sarah, age 5, on the 9th; and Josephine, age 7, on the 14th. Sarah and Josephine were daughters of Lydia Ann. Because of the fear of the disease, the undertaker in Heber City would not come to the Walker Ranch, so he brought three little coffins halfway where William Henry Walker, Jr., age 19, rode on horseback to pick them up. This fact was brought to light during a visit with Dora Sawyer, age 83, who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is a granddaughter of Lydia Ann Horn. The three children were the first ones buried in the little cemetary.

In February, 1882, Ada Eugene, age 4, opened the stove door with her apron. Her clothing caught fire and she died of burns and was also buried in the little cemetary. She was the daughter of Ada Louisa; and then in 1885, Ada Louisa buried a stillborn daughter, Caroline, there. A cedar tree was planted that now covers all of the graves and a pole fence was placed around the site that can easily be seen from the highway.

The above article was written and submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in Provo, Utah in May of 1979 by Thelma Mahoney Anderson, daughter of Elmer Clarence Mahoney and granddaughter of Ada Louisa Mahoney Walker. Thelma's husband, Lindsay Anderson, worked for the Bureau of Reclamation at that time, and the information was requested because of the plans to build the Jordanelle Reservoir, whose waters would cover the Walker Cemetary. At that time, they planned to move the remains to the Heber City Cemetary. Now, in 1987, they have proposed building a memorial near the new highway as an alternative to moving the remains to the Heber Cemetary.

The following information was found on a board nailed to the cedar tree at the gravesites by Lindsay and Thelma M. Anderson. The next time we visited there, the board was gone. Also, information was taken from the family group sheet of Henry Walker and Ada Louisa.

Walker

<u>Josephine</u>

Sept. 4, 1872

July 14, 1879

7 years old

<u>Murry Kimble</u>

Nov. 19, 1875

July 7, 1879

4 years

<u>Sarah</u>

Dec. 18, 1874

July 9, 1879

5 years old

<u>Genie Louisa</u>

April 10, 1878

Feb. 18, 1882

4 years

<u>Caroline</u> June 1885 Stillborn

On the family group sheet, the name, Ada Eugene, appears instead of the name, Genie Louisa, found on the board, but the birth and death dates are the same.

Dr. Green